(c) A number of steps have been taken to increase tax collection which include closer monitoring of collections, plugging leakage of revenue through anti-smuggling and anti-evasion measures; expeditious disposal of tax adjudications and appeals; finalisation of provisional assessments; simplification of tax collection procedures to improve tax compliance; restructuring of the administrative setup and expediting computerisation of operations.

Strike by employees of I.T. Department

1442. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Strike hits filing of IT. returns" which appeared in the Times of India dated 6th July, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for the strike by the employees of the Income Tax Department;

(c) what alternative arrangements have been made to ensure that those visiting the IT. offices to file their returns do not fact any inconvenience; and

(d) whether the last date of filing returns is being extended beyond 31st July, 2002 and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No legal notice was given by the 'Gazetted Officers' Union and Group 'C and 'D' employees Unions for strike.

(c) Adequate number of Group 'A' Officers were deputed to receive returns to ensure that persons desirous of filing their returns did not face any inconvenience.

(d) The last date of filing of retuns has been extended to 31 st August, 2002 only for employees filing their returns through their employers under Bulk Filing of Returns (Suvidha) Scheme. The last date has not been extended for other persons as the normal work of the Department was not disrupted.